

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-6 (canceled).

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7. (New) A completely constructed pre-stressed girder comprising upper and lower flanges interconnected by a body portion; the girder defining a lengthwise direction and including an open area disposed intermediate opposite longitudinal ends of the girder, the open area being accessible in a lateral direction relative to the longitudinal direction; a plurality of first steel wires provided in the lengthwise direction of the girder and being pre-tensioned during the construction of the girder; a plurality of second steel wires provided in the lengthwise direction of the girder; one end of each second steel wires disposed within the open area and the other end of each second steel wires extending to any one of the longitudinal ends of the girder; the open area remaining empty after the completion of the construction of the girder so that the one end, disposed within the open area, of each second steel wire is accessible through the open area to produce in each second steel wire, a tension which extends from the one end to the other end of each second steel wire after the completion of the construction of the girder.

8. (New) The completely constructed pre-stressed girder according to claim 7 wherein at least one of the second steel wires extend from the open area to one of the longitudinal ends of the girder and the rest of the second steel wires extend from the open area to the other of the opposite longitudinal ends.

9. (New) The pre-stressed girder according to claim 8 wherein said at least one of the second steel wires and the rest of the second steel wires are connected by a coupling member disposed within the open area.

10. (New) A pre-stressed girder comprising upper and lower flanges interconnected by a body portion; the girder defining a lengthwise direction and including an open area disposed intermediate opposite longitudinal ends of the girder, the open area being accessible in a lateral direction relative to the longitudinal direction; a plurality of steel wires provided in the lengthwise direction of the girder; a first plurality of the wires being pre-tensioned; a second plurality of the wires being substantially non-tensioned and connected to a coupling member disposed within the open area; at least one of the substantially non-tensioned wires extending from the coupling member to one of the longitudinal ends of the girder and at least one of the substantially non-tensioned wires extending from the coupling member to the other of the opposite longitudinal ends; the coupling member including an adjustable tensioning structure accessible through the open area to produce, in the substantially non-tensioned wires, a tension which extends from one of the opposite longitudinal ends of the girder to the other of the longitudinal ends thereof.

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11. (New) The pre-stressed girder according to claim 10 wherein the coupling member has holes formed therethrough through which respective ones of the substantially non-tensioned wires extend and are secured by wedges.

12. (New) The pre-stressed girder according to claim 10 wherein the substantially non-tensioned wires are disposed within one of the upper and lower flanges.

13. (New) The pre-stressed girder according to claim 10 wherein there are three substantially non-tensioned wires, two of which extending to one of the longitudinal ends and the other extending to the other longitudinal end and situated between the two substantially non-tensioned wires.
